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INSIDE THE BEEF WAY

Taking exception

Stansfield Turner, former CIA director, takes exception to a recent item in this column linking efforts to oust hard-line conservatives from the National Security Council to a "Turner Mafia." Mr. Turner described the item as "utter nonsense" and categorically denied having lunch with the gentlemen named "for five years." He also said he did not recall ever having lunched with all three at the same time, and added, "I have a lot better things to do in life than try to unseat some colonel that I don't even know." That was in reference to allegations from several sources that efforts were afoot to oust Col. Ollie North from the NSC. It has also come to our attention that there was a rather heated denial of the item circulating within the CIA.

— John Elvin